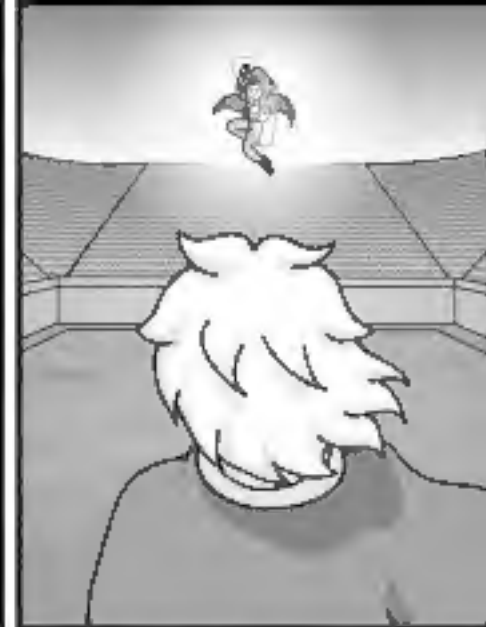
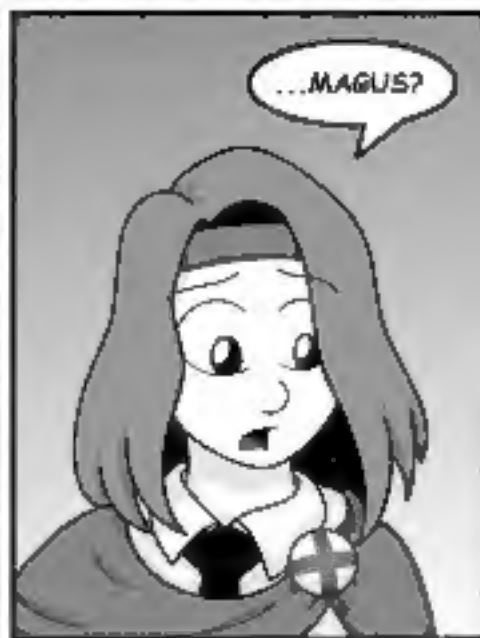
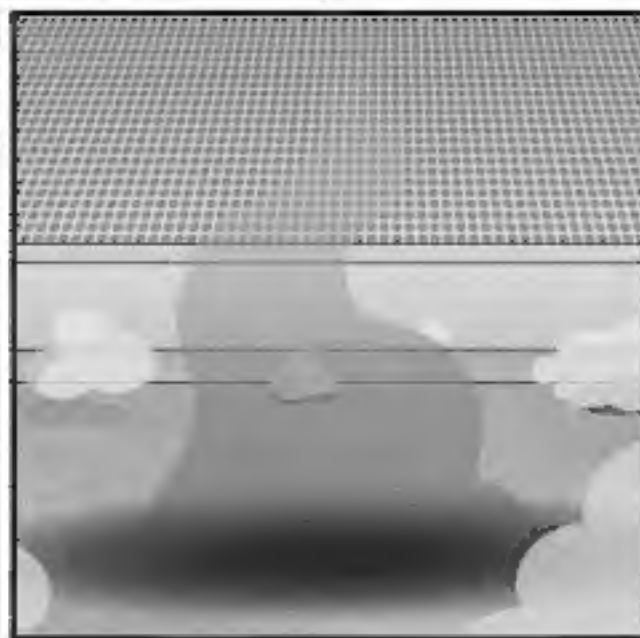
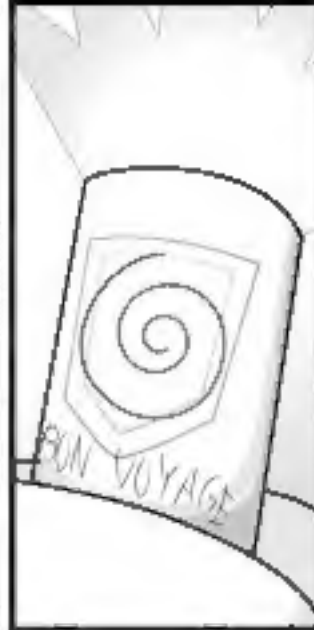


TWO YEARS AGO







SOMETHING DEFINITELY HAPPENED OUT HERE. THE LACK OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THEY COVERED THEIR TRACKS WELL, OR WHATEVER THIS WAS OCCURRED ON A DIFFERENT PLANE OF EXISTENCE.



AGENT VERRES, DO YOU RECALL THE INCIDENT WITH THE TRANS-DIMENSIONAL WALRUS?



NO, AGENT WOLF. I HAVE SOMEHOW FORGOTTEN THAT THERE WAS A DIMENSION-HOPPING WALRUS.

RIGHT, WELL, THERE WAS THIS DIMENSION-HOPPING WALRUS...



...AND AGENT CRANIUM AND I WORKED THAT CASE. THIS FEELS SIMILAR.



I CONCUR. I WOULD HYPOTHESIZE THIS TO BE THE SITE OF A RECENT DIMENSIONAL SHIFT.

IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH...



IT WAS AN EGG.



AN EGG FELL FROM HIS NEST.



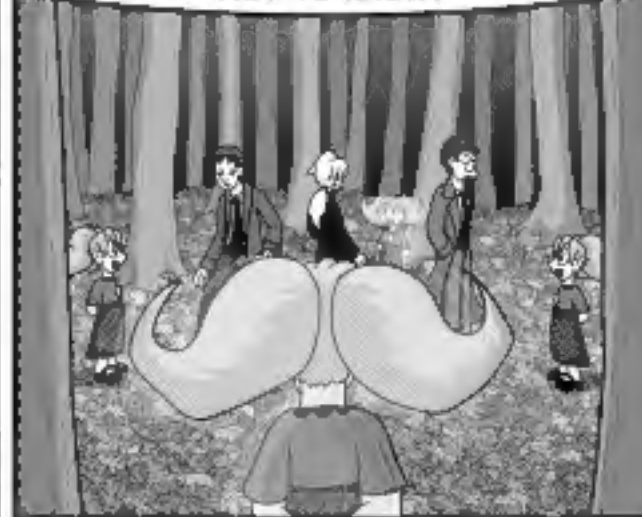
HE HAD NO PLACE TO LAND. I CAUGHT HIM IN MY WINGS. HIS NEW NEST IS UNSEEN.



THE EGG WILL HATCH SOMEDAY. THE HATCHLING WILL THEN GROW.



I KNOW NOT WHEN IT WILL. THAT IS HOW I LIKE THINGS. I PREFER NOT TO KNOW.



I AM HERE WITH WARNING. THIS BIRD WILL BE A HAWK. YOU ARE ALL LITTLE MICE. I KNOW NOW WHO WOULD WIN.



THAT IS NO FUN FOR ME. GROW STRONG AND BE A HAWK. MAKE THE OUTCOME HAVE DOUBT.



ENTERTAIN ME.



...WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!



OK, SERIOUSLY, WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT? THAT HAD TO HAVE BEEN MAGIC, BUT I DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHING!

NOR DID I...
PERHAPS THE GIRL
WAS A HOLOGRAM?

WE'LL NEED TO CHECK FOR THAT TO OFFICIALLY RULE IT OUT, BUT WE WON'T FIND ANYTHING.

HOW CAN
YOU BE SO
SURE?

I'VE ENCOUNTERED BEINGS SUCH AS THIS BEFORE. IT IS COMMON FOR THEM TO HAVE ODDLY SHAPED EARS, AND THEY CAN USE MAGIC WITHOUT BEING DETECTED.

ALIENS?

...NO, AGENT WOLF.
NOT ALIENS. COULD
YOU PLEASE FOCUS ON
THE PARANORMAL?
THAT IS YOUR JOB
AS A PARANORMAL
INVESTIGATOR.

AH-HAI! SO
YOU ADMIT
THERE ARE
ALIENS!

WHAT?
NO I
DIDN'T.

YES, YOU DID! IF ALIENS
AREN'T A DEVIATION FROM
THE NORM, THEN THEY
MUST BE NORMAL!

THAT'S NOT WHAT
PARANORMAL MEANS.

...IT'S
NOT?

NO. NOW, AS I WAS SAYING, WHAT WE
ARE DEALING WITH HERE... IS AN
IMMORTAL.

AN
IMMORTAL...
ALIEN?





...NANASE OPENED UP TO ME, I OPENED UP TO HER, AND WE JUST... *KISSED!*



THEN WHAT?

WE WERE FREEZING OUR BUTTS OFF, SO WE WENT INSIDE AND CUDDLED ON THE SOFA BEFORE FALLING ASLEEP.

DID YOU GUYS TALK AT ALL AFTER YOU KISSED?



I ANSWERED YOUR STUPID RIDE QUESTION.

I'LL MAKE IT A POLICY TO LEAVE YOU STRANDED IN THE FUTURE. SERIOUSLY, DID YOU GUYS TALK?

NOT MUCH AFTER THE KISS, NO. WHY?



WELL...

WELL, WHAT? WHAT IS IT WITH YOU? NANASE AND I ARE A COUPLE NOW! BE HAPPY FOR US!

I WANNA BE, BUT... NANASE DOESN'T WANT IT TO GET BACK TO HER FAMILY THAT SHE'S GAY, AND SHE ONLY JUST REALIZED THAT SHE'S A LESBIAN. DID SHE ACTUALLY SAY SHE'S READY TO BE IN A RELATIONSHIP?



EXCUSE ME. I NEED TO FIND SOMETHING HEAVY AND BLUNT TO KILL YOU WITH.





IT MUST BE COOL WORKING IN A COMIC BOOK STORE!



THAT WAS THE THINKING WHEN I APPLIED HERE. BUT IT FEELS LIKE HALF THE TIME I'M BABYSITTING FREE-LOADING KIDDIE GEEKS.



WELL, I'M LIKING IT HERE I'VE NEVER FELT MORE ATTRACTIVE



SO UM. HOW'RE YOU DOING NANASE?



I FEEL NUMB AND ANNOYED. BUT OTHER THAN THAT SARAH I'M FINE

NUMB AND ANNOYED?



I'M ANNOYED WITH YOU, JUSTIN. I JUST KNOW YOU WERE THE RING-LEADER IN THAT WHOLE "LET'S NOT TELL NANASE WE KNOW THAT THING ABOUT HER EVEN THOUGH SHE THINKS ONLY TWO PEOPLE KNOW" THING

OH THAT

AND THE NUMBNESS?



THE NUMBNESS INVOLVES TALKING TO SOMEONE LATER AND IS THE PRIMARY REASON I'M SIMPLY ANNOYED AND NOT ON A PISSED-OFF RAMPAGE

NANASE YOU KNOW MY HISTORY WHEN I WAS OUTED. IT--

SHHH!!!

WHAT?

IXNAY ON THE AY-GEH WAY! I'M ONLY "OUT" TO MY CLOSEST FRIENDS! IT CAN'T GET BACK TO MY FAMILY!

OK WHEN THAT "THING" ABOUT ME WAS MADE PUBLIC IT WAS DONE BY SOMEONE ELSE, AND I WASN'T READY

JUSTIN. I KNOW YOU MEANT WELL, BUT IT'S HUMILIATING THAT YOU AND ELLEN KNEW WHEN I THOUGHT ONLY SUSAN AND ELLIOT KNEW!

IT WAS HORRIBLE I WANTED IT TO BE UP TO YOU WHEN YOU SHARED STUFF

I I STILL DON'T GET HOW SUSAN COULD SPILL THE BEANS LIKE THAT

IT WAS MY FAULT I USED THE FAIRY DOLL SPELL TO GET OUT OF THERE, BUT TO HER IT LOOKED LIKE I'D JUST PASSED OUT OR SOMETHING SHE LET IT SLIP WHEN SHE WENT TO GET HELP

NANASE I'M SORRY I WAS JUST TRYING TO DO THE RIGHT THING

I KNOW I KNOW IT WAS A BAD SITUATION I DON'T THINK THERE WAS A "RIGHT WAY" TO HANDLE IT

HEY! MAYBE WE WOULD BUY MORE STUFF IF YOU ACTUALLY MANNED THE REGISTER ONCE IN A WHILE!



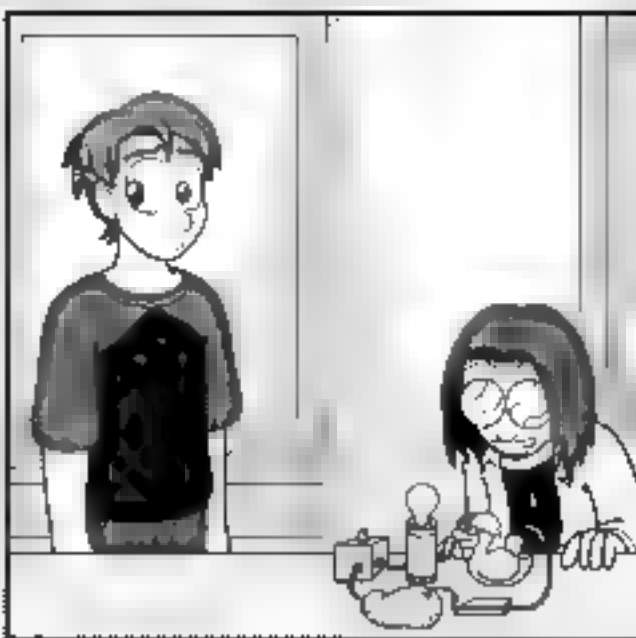
YOU ARE WONDERING WHAT I AM
DOING THIS IS UNDERSTANDABLE
AND THE ANSWER? IT IS SIMPLE



YOU SEE AFTER MANY MINUTES OF
EXPERIMENTATION OVER SEVERAL DAYS
SUCCESS IS WITHIN MY GRASP!



WITH THE FLIP OF THIS SWITCH, I WILL
HAVE ACHIEVED FREE PORTABLE ENERGY
FROM THE VERY CURVATURE OF SPACE!



DAMMIT THIS THING COULDN'T POWER A WRISTWATCH. AND EVEN IF IT COULD, IT'S TOO DAMN BIG FOR WHAT I WANT

WHAT DID YOU WANT IT FOR?



NOTHING WE'RE STUCK TAKING THE BUS TO SCHOOL TOMORROW AREN'T WE?

YEAH, MOPERVILLE SOUTH DOESN'T GIVE BUS SERVICE OUT HERE. SO ELLEN'S COMMANDEERING MY CAR



SHE'S DRIVING GRACE RIGHT?

OF COURSE

I'D LIKE IT BETTER IF THEY WERE GOING TO NORTH WITH US

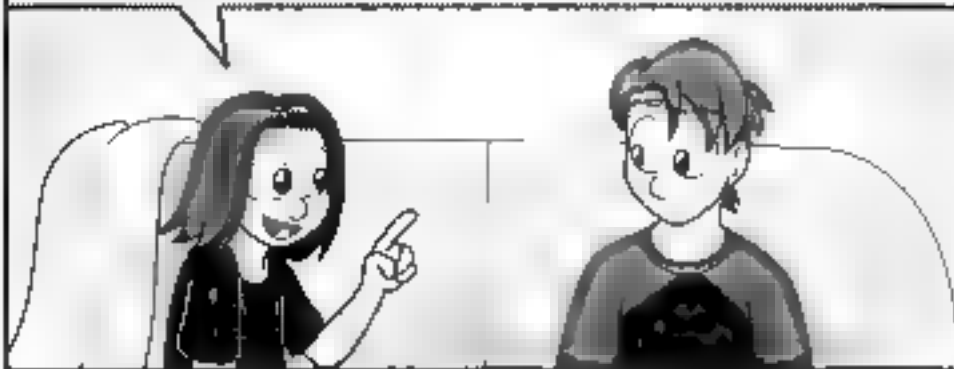
YOU KNOW ELLEN CAN'T GO TO NORTH



HER OFFICIAL STORY IS THAT SHE'S MY LONG LOST TWIN SISTER, BUT EVERYBODY AT NORTH EITHER THINKS SHE'S MY COUSIN OR, WELL, ME



SHE COULD GO! YOU'D JUST HAVE TO EXPLAIN THAT I ACCIDENTALLY TURNED YOU INTO A GIRL. YOU GOT STUCK THAT WAY FOR WHAT WOULD'VE BEEN A MONTH AND YOU PUT TOGETHER A COVER STORY BUT THEN TRIED TO GET BACK TO NORMAL WITH A MAGICAL DIAMOND THAT DID IN FACT REMANIFY YOU BUT ALSO CREATED ELLEN. YOUR BISEXUAL FEMALE SISTER DAUGHTER COUSIN DUPLICATE!



YEAH, I THINK WE'LL BE KEEPING THAT A SECRET

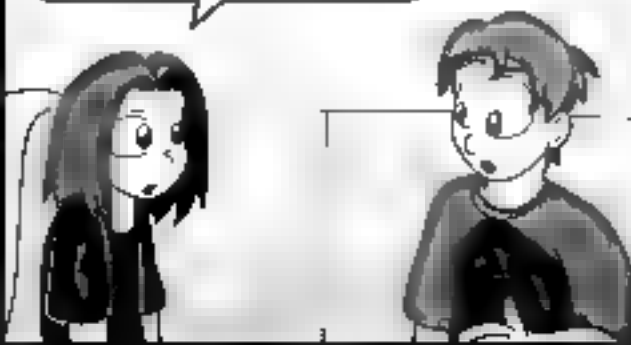
WHAT ABOUT THE PART WHERE THE DIAMOND MADE IT SO YOU CAN TURN INTO A GIRL AT WILL?

ONE BIG SECRET



CHANGING THE SUBJECT SLIGHTLY
WHAT ABOUT GRACE? IT LL BE ELLEN'S
FIRST DAY AT A NEW SCHOOL TO-
MORROW BUT GRACE HAS NEVER BEEN
IN SCHOOL AT ALL. IS SHE READY?

WHY WOULDN'T SHE BE?

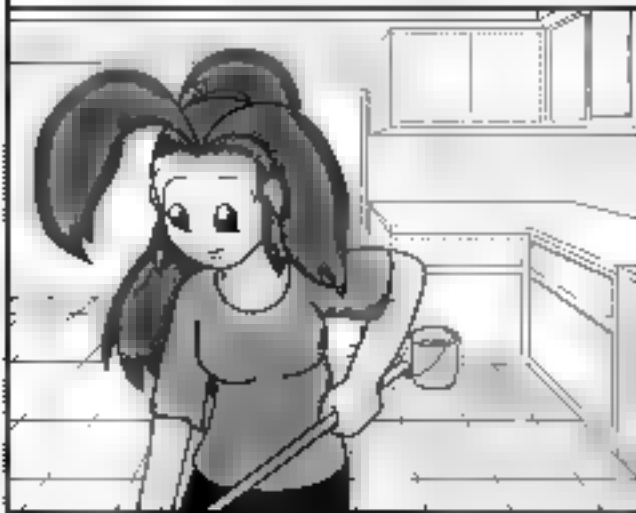


SHE S A SHAPESHIFTING ALIEN-
HUMAN-SQUIRREL HYBRID WHO WAS
RAISED IN A LAB IS NAIVE AND HAS
AT BEST, A FLIMSY GRASP OF PROPER
SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

WELL YES.



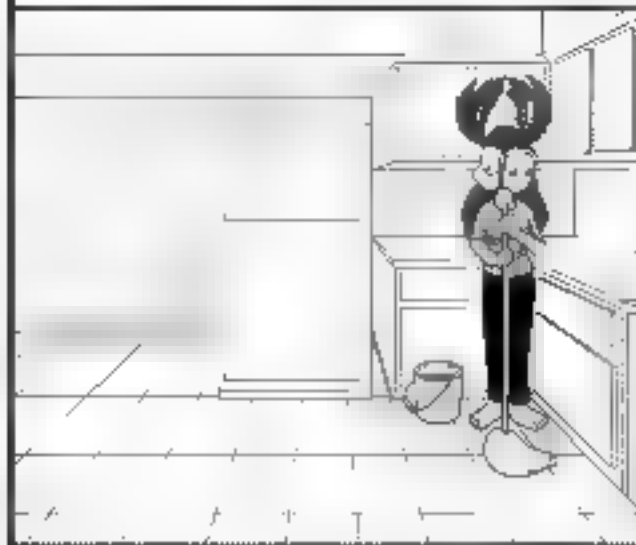
" BUT DON'T UNDERESTIMATE HER
UNDERNEATH ALL THAT CUTENESS AND
NAIVETÉ GRACE IS A FREAKIN' GENIUS "



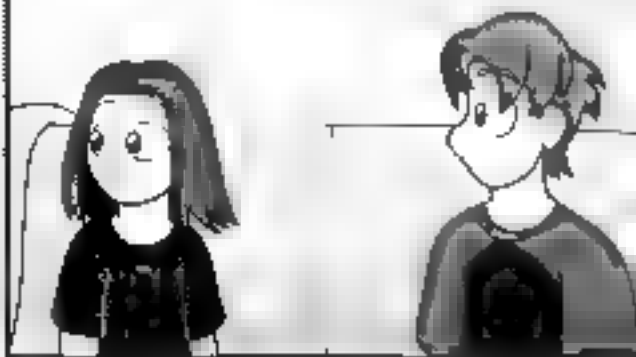
"SHE S BEEN TEACHING HERSELF ALL
SORTS OF STUFF WHILE WAITING TO
START SCHOOL, AND I M TALKING
COLLEGE LEVEL STUFF!"



"DEEP DOWN, GRACE MIGHT BE THE
SMARTEST PERSON ON THE PLANET"

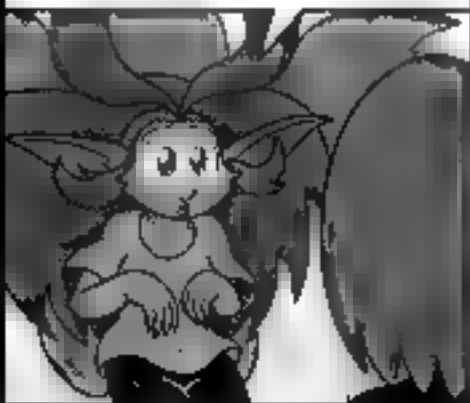


I'M TRAPPED!





I DIDN'T WANT TO INTRO-
DUCE YOU TO THIS FORM
LIKE THIS. IT'S JUST THAT
THIS IS MY ONLY FORM
THAT I KNOW I CAN FLY
WITH, AND I WAS TRAPPED



I WOULD HAVE SHOWN IT
TO YOU EARLIER, BUT FIRST
I WAS SAD AND WASN'T
TRANSFORMING AND THEN
THERE WAS THE PARTY



I DIDN'T SCARE
YOU DID I?

WHAT?

SO
HOT



UH, GRACE. YOU WERE SAYING
ABOUT ELLEN AND NANASE ?

OH, YEAH! ISN'T
IT GREAT, TEDD?

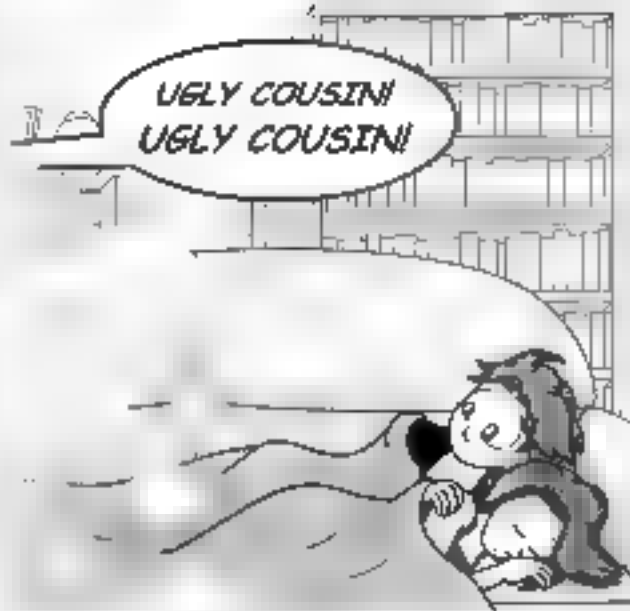


WHAT? OH YEAH. SURE

"YAWN" HM?
OH MORNING
TEDD



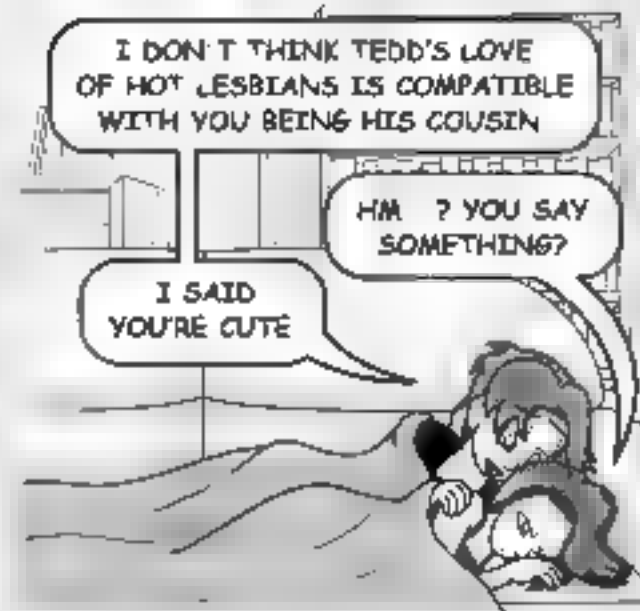
UGLY COUSIN!
UGLY COUSIN!



I DON'T THINK TEDD'S LOVE
OF HOT LESBIANS IS COMPATIBLE
WITH YOU BEING HIS COUSIN

HM ? YOU SAY
SOMETHING?

I SAID
YOU'RE CUTE



YOU MISSED SOME CRAZY GOODNESS BY LEAVING SO EARLY LAST NIGHT ELLIOT

BUT YOU MISSED SUSAN WITH VLADIA HAIR!

I HAD MY FILL OF CRAZY GOODNESS BEFORE I LEFT



I'M NOT SURE WHICH QUESTION TO ASK FIRST

OK, YOU KNOW HOW VLADIA HAS TWO HAIR COLORS?

I'M ASSUMING "VLADIA" IS VLAD?

THEN YES.

YEP!



WELL SUSAN DYES HER HAIR. AND HER HAIR GOT SHORTER WHEN SHE WAS TRANSFORMED LAST NIGHT SO WHEN IT GREW BACK TO NORMAL LENGTH HALF OF IT WAS DYED DARK BLUE WHILE THE REST WAS HER NATURAL BLONDE COLOR!



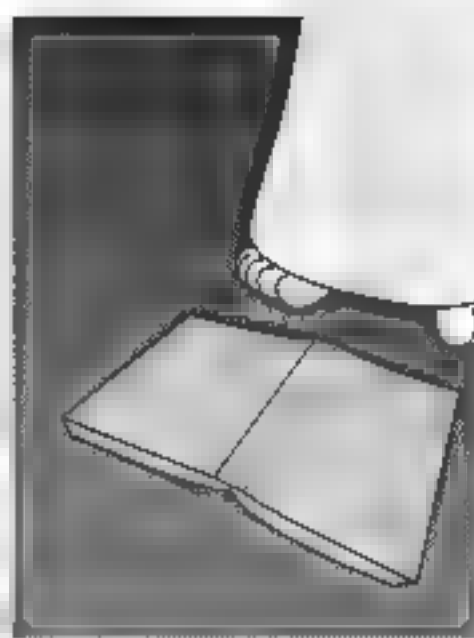
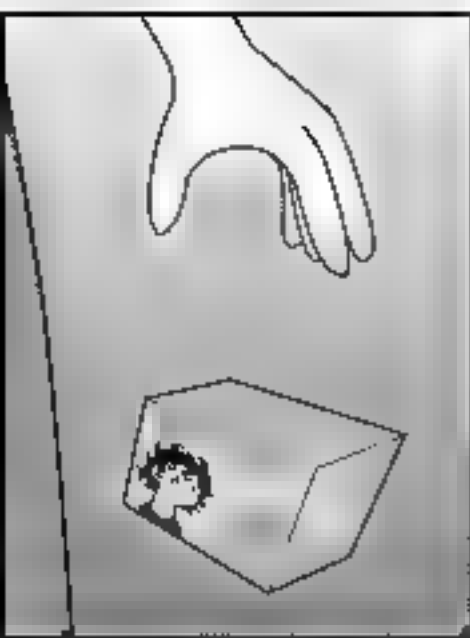
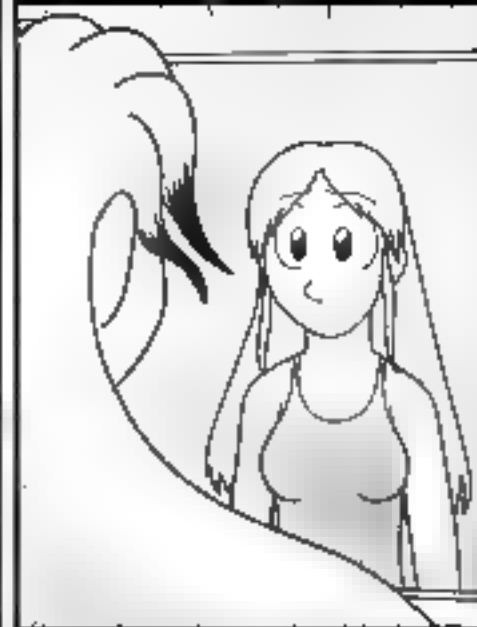
CRAP I WOULD'VE LIKED TO SEE THAT ANY CHANCE YOU THINK SHE'LL KEEP IT THAT WAY FOR A WHILE?



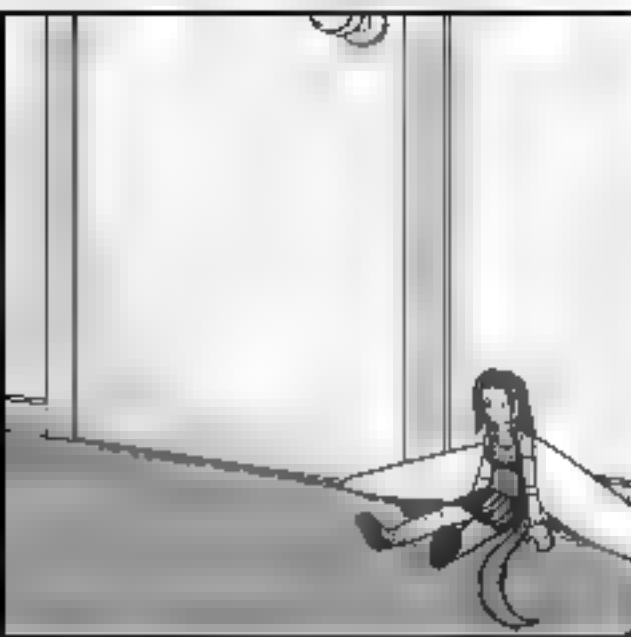
I DOUBT IT WE ALL TRIED TO TELL HER HOW AWESOME SHE LOOKED BUT THAT JUST SEEMED TO ANNOY HER

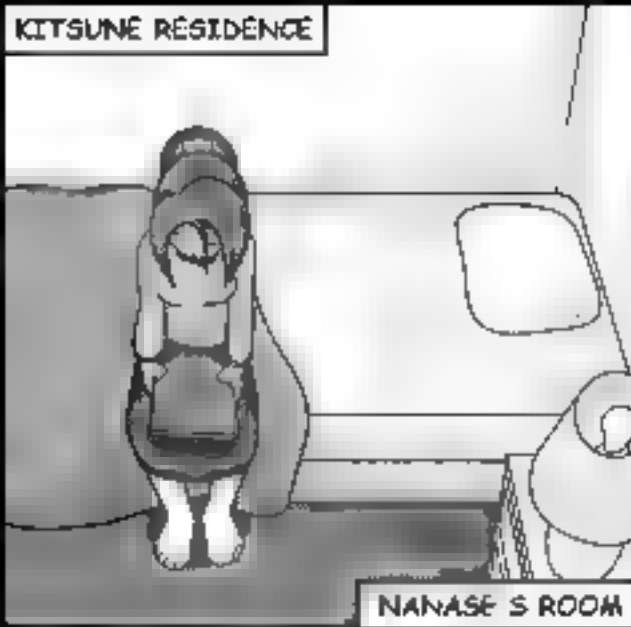
"I DON'T THINK SUSAN COULD CARE LESS WHETHER PEOPLE LIKE THE WAY SHE LOOKS"





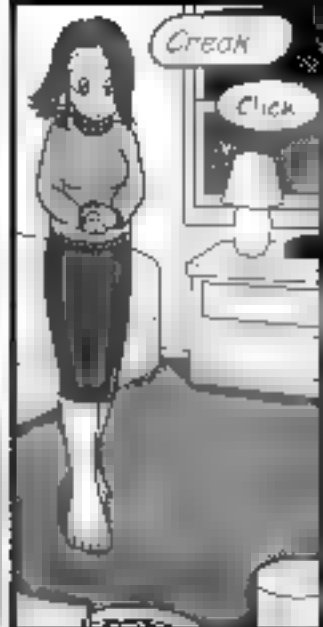
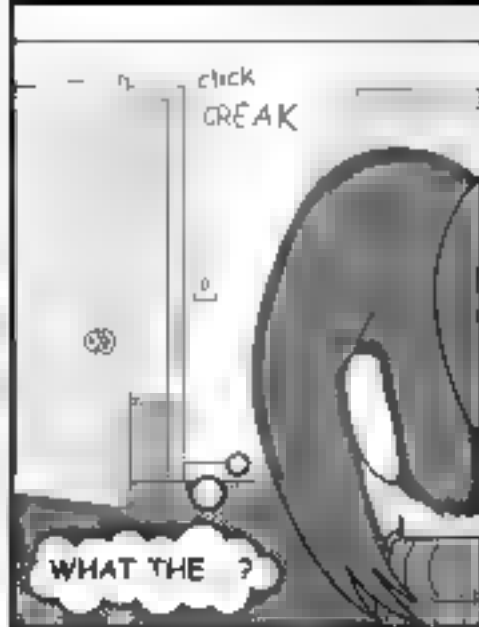












IT'S LUCKY THIS
TINY SWIMSUIT
WAS PART OF
MY OUTFIT



YEAH YEAH. THAT WAS
MY THINKING, TOO.



DID YOU
FIND A
MARBLE?



SURE WE'VE GOT TONS OF
THEM. TEDD AND ELLIOT
USED TO PLAY MARBLES ALL
THE TIME WE DIDN'T LIKE
THE GAME ALL THAT MUCH,
BUT WE LOVED COLLECTING
SMALL SHINY OBJECTS.
WHY DO YOU NEED ONE?



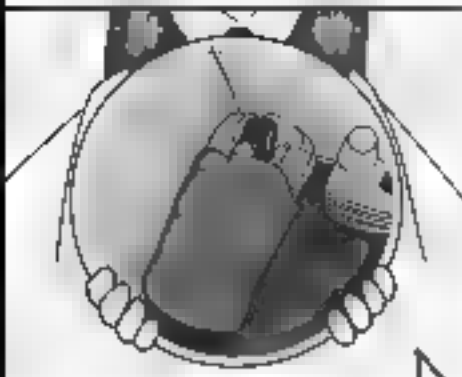
I CAN APPARENTLY DO MORE AS A FAIRY
THAN FLY AND MAKE GLITTER APPEAR

YOU CAN
MAKE MARBLES EVEN
MORE SHINY?



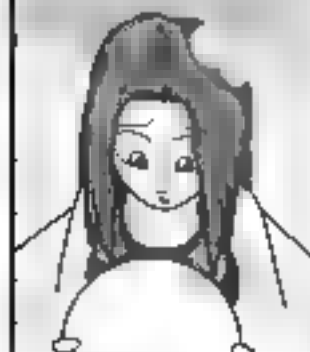
I CAN USE THEM LIKE CRYSTAL BALLS
TO KEEP AN EYE ON MY REAL BODY SEE?

AW COOL IT'S LIKE A TINY
PEEPHOLE INTO YOUR ROOM!



I ONLY FOUND OUT ABOUT
THIS A FEW HOURS AGO.
I DIDN'T KNOW I COULD GET
NEW FAIRY ABILITIES

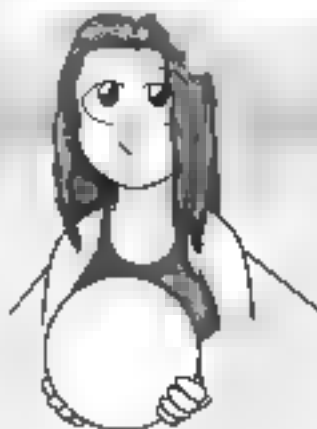
HAD I KNOWN I
MIGHT'VE WELL
ELLEN. I'M REALLY
SORRY I KEPT YOU
WAITING ALL DAY
IT'S JUST



NANASE WAIT I KNOW THIS IS A
STRESSFUL TIME FOR YOU YOU JUST
REALIZED YOU'RE GAY YOU'RE WORRIED
YOUR FAMILY WILL FIND OUT YOU
WERE SNEEZED ON I'M NOT UPSET
THAT YOU DIDN'T SHOW UP EARLIER
ALL I REALLY NEED TO KNOW IS



ARE WE IN A
RELATIONSHIP?



THAT'S
UP TO YOU
ELLEN.



UP TO ME? NANASE YOU
KNOW HOW I FEEL! I TOTALLY
WANT US TO BE TOGETHER!

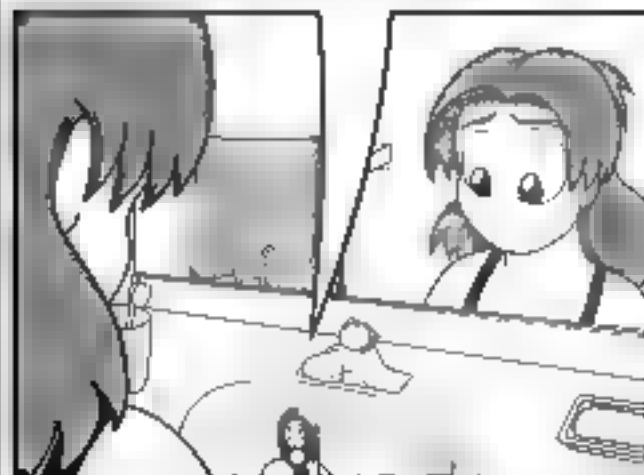


BUT IT'S
NOT AS
SIMPLE
AS THAT

ELLEN, I WANT TO BE WITH
YOU BUT IT CAN'T GET BACK
TO MY FAMILY OUTSIDE OF
OUR SMALL CIRCLE OF
FRIENDS NOBODY
COULD KNOW



WE'D HAVE TO PRETEND TO BE JUST
FRIENDS AT SCHOOL WE'D HAVE TO HIDE
IT ANYTIME WE'RE IN PUBLIC. GOD ONLY
KNOWS HOW OUR DATES WOULD WORK



I'M NOT GOING TO SIT HERE
AND TELL YOU WE COULD
HAVE A NORMAL RELATION-
SHIP BECAUSE WE CAN'T WE
JUST CAN'T



AND I DON'T KNOW WHEN
THAT WOULD CHANGE I DON'T
KNOW IF IT WOULD CHANGE



AND AND IF THAT'S NOT
SOMETHING YOU'RE WILLING
TO DO I'M NOT GOING TO
BLAME YOU FOR IT



BUT I HAVE TO KNOW







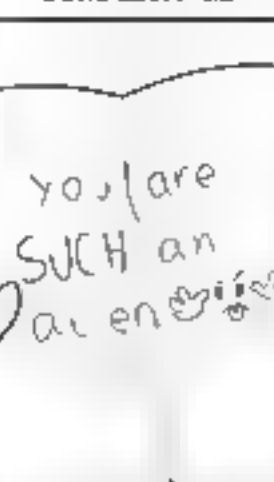
AS I UNDERSTAND IT WE ARE DEALING WITH SOMETHING THAT WILL REVEAL ITSELF AT AN UNKNOWN TIME AND A MAGIC GIRL WHO HAS TAKEN AN INTEREST AND LIKENED IT TO AN EGG



VERRES YOU REFERRED TO THE GIRL AS AN IMMORTAL IN YOUR OPINION, IS SHE OR THE "EGG" THE GREATER THREAT?



WELL, AGENT CRANIUM THAT'S WHERE IT GETS COMPLICATED



LET'S SAY THAT WE'RE ON A PHYSICAL PLANE OF EXISTENCE, WHILE THE IMMORTALS ARE OFTEN IN A REALM "ABOVE" THAT, WHICH I WILL REFER TO AS A "SPIRIT PLANE"



WE CAN'T SEE OR HEAR THIS SPIRIT PLANE BUT THEY CAN SEE AND HEAR US THE IMMORTALS HAVE NEAR GOD-LIKE POWER WITHIN THE SPIRIT PLANE



BUT ARE SIGNIFICANTLY WEAKER IN OUR PLANE YOUR AVERAGE PERSON WOULD BE IN TROUBLE, BUT ANY ONE OF US WOULD HAVE FAVORED ODDS TO WIN IN A FIGHT



RANDOM NOTE FROM NOWHERE THAT IS NONE OF YOUR CONCERN ASIDE, WHAT I'M GATHERING FROM THIS IS THAT WE COULD BEAT UP A LITTLE GIRL



ASSUMING SHE PLAYED FAIR WHICH SHE WOULDN'T STILL, THAT'S NOT EVEN THE ISSUE THE IMMORTALS KEEP THEMSELVES IN CHECK IF ONE DOES ANYTHING MORE THAN EMPOWER OR GUIDE PEOPLE OF THIS UNIVERSE THE OTHER IMMORTALS GET PISSED



I'M NOT CERTAIN, BUT I THINK THEY LIKEN OUR WORLD TO A SANDBOX TO PLAY IN, AND HAVE RULES FOR IT



WHAT? DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT THAT WAS A PERFECTLY GOOD ANALOGY



WHICH RAISES YOUR WANTED LEVEL AND TICKS OFF THE OTHER IMMORTALS! BAM! PERFECT ANALOGY!

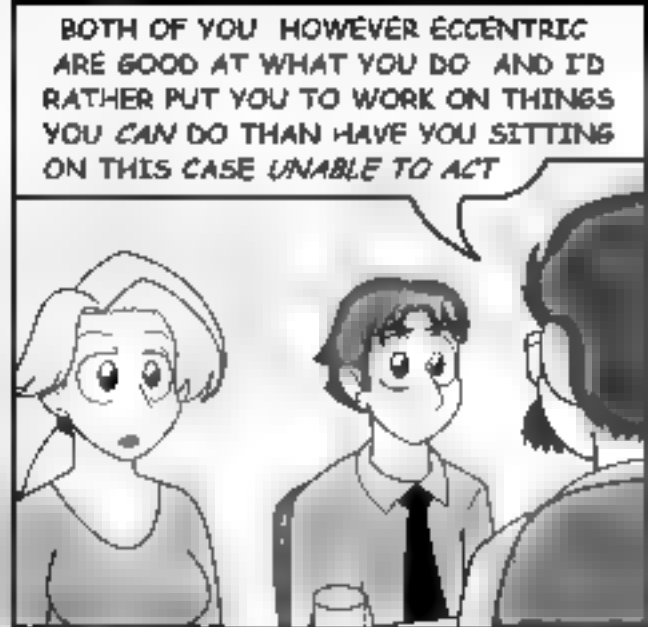
IMMORTALS AREN'T GIVEN MISSIONS BY THE MOB THE ANALOGY IS FLAWED



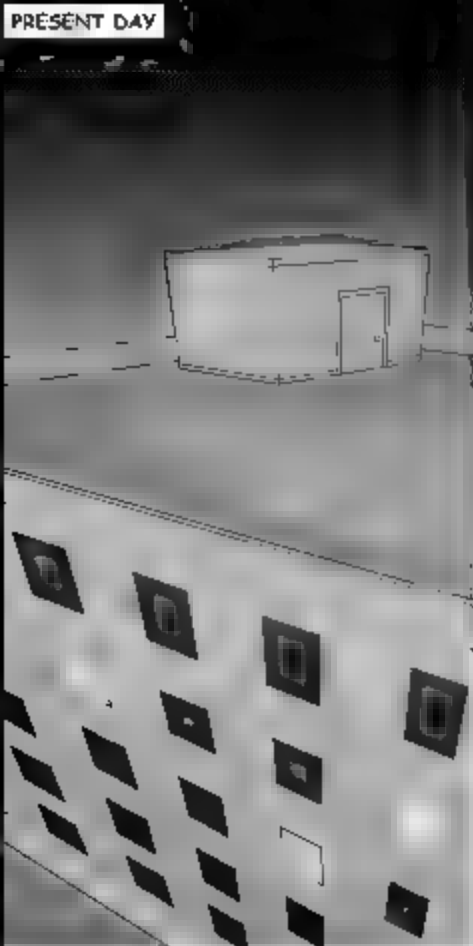
MOVING ON, THE IMMORTAL TAKING AN INTEREST IS TROUBLING AS IT SUGGESTS THE EGG IS TRULY A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH HOWEVER

WE HAVE NEXT TO NOTHING TO GO ON, AND WE LACK THE MEANS TO INVESTIGATE THIS OURSELVES. FOR THE TIME BEING YOU TWO ARE OFF THE CASE





PRESENT DAY



TWICE BID FOR
FREEDOM, TWICE FAILED.



SENT OFF
RUNNING BY
FORGETFUL
FOOLS...

...MADE TO
HIDE FAR
FROM ITS
QUARRY.



WHAT FEEBLE
EFFORT SHALL
BE NEXT?

YOU ENJOY WATCHING ME
SUFFER DON'T YOU CHAOS?



"CHAOS" AGAIN? NOW, MAGUS, I THOUGHT I'VE
TOLD YOU TO BE MORE CREATIVE THAN THAT.

I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO BE CREATIVE
JUST TELL ME YOUR DAMN NAME



NO. AND I ONLY ENJOY WATCHING YOU
SUFFER IF IT IS IN AN UNPREDICTABLE
- MANNER. THIS SUKING IS BORING.

YOU WANT TO SEE
SOMETHING ELSE? TELL ME
HOW TO GET AROUND THOSE
OTHER IMMORTALS WHO
KEEP GUARDING ELLIOT!

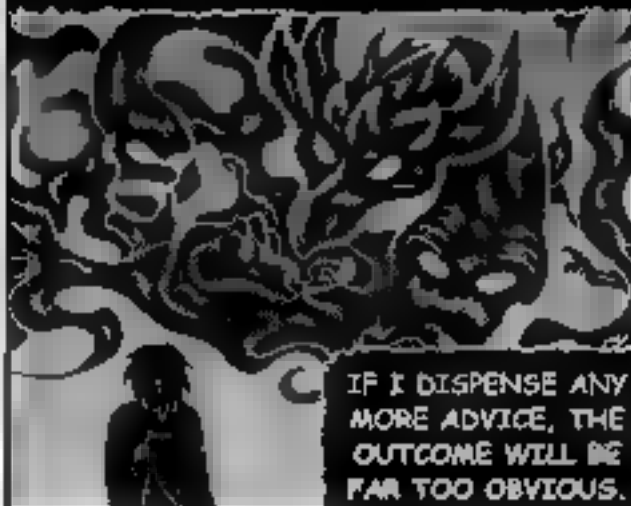


SO THE SPOILED PRINCESS
WANTS TO BE SAVED BY THE
NOBLE PLUMBER! HOW CAN
I RESIST HER CHARMS?



DON'T
CALL ME A--
PLUMBER?

LISTEN, DAMSEL IN DISTRESS. MY JOY
COMES FROM THE UNPREDICTABLE, AND
I'VE HELPED YOU TOO MUCH AS IT IS.



IF I DISPENSE ANY
MORE ADVICE, THE
OUTCOME WILL BE
FAR TOO OBVIOUS.

I DON'T CARE IF
YOU ROT IN THIS
SPIRIT REALM FOR
DECADES.



ALL I CARE ABOUT
IS NOT KNOWING
HOW, OR IF, YOU
ONE DAY SUCCEED.

THAT'S A LOT
OF BULL, CHAOS.





EXCUSE ME?

YOU WOULDN'T HAVE HELPED ME AT ALL IF ALL YOU CARED ABOUT WAS NOT KNOWING THE OUTCOME



YOU WANT ME FREE AND YOU WANT ME FREE SOON.

AND THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN UNLESS YOU GIVE ME A LITTLE HELP!



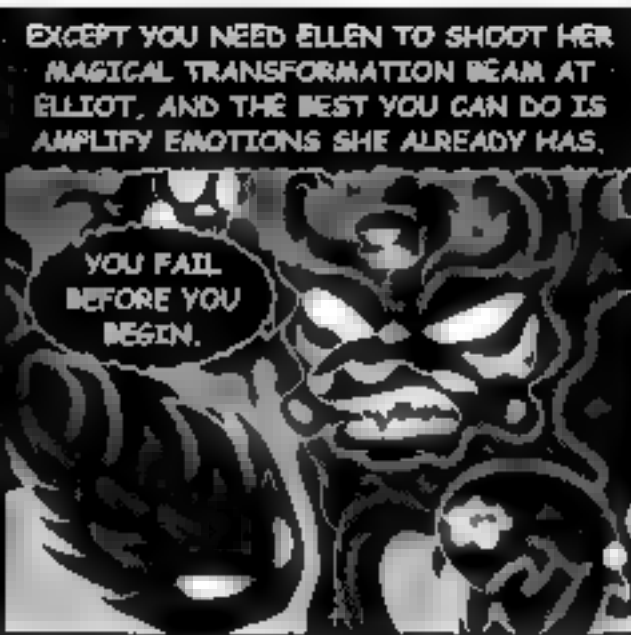
CONGRATULATIONS, MAGUS. YOU'VE MANAGED TO PLEASE ME.



OF COURSE, I'M STILL NOT HELPING YOU.

OH COME ON!

ALL I NEED YOU TO DO IS DISTRACT THOSE IMMORTALS AT A TIME WHEN ELLIOT AND ELLEN ARE TOGETHER!



YOU FAIL BEFORE YOU BEGIN.



THIS IS WHY I NEED YOUR HELP! HOW THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO GET PAST THOSE IMMORTALS AND GET ELLEN TO DO WHAT I NEED HER TO DO?

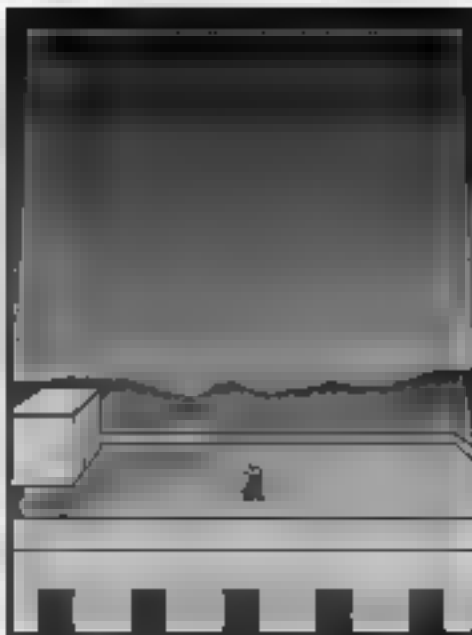


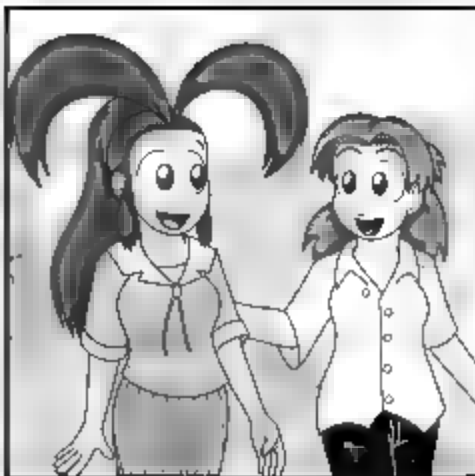
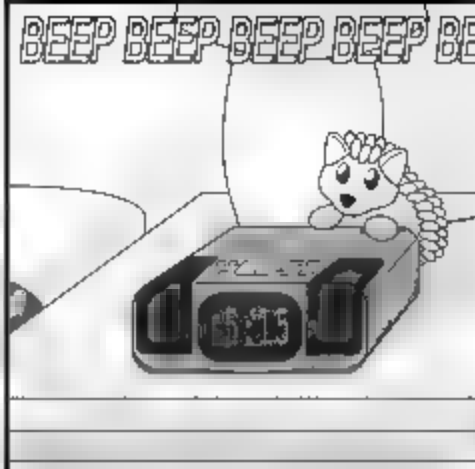
THE NEXT STEP SHOULD BE OBVIOUS. WILL YOU STILL BE THIS HELPLESS WHEN -- YOU ARE FREE?

YOU'LL NEVER KNOW IF I'M STUCK HERE



YOU ARE IN NEED OF TWO WHO ARE DIVIDED. ONLY ONE IS WATCHED. - ELLIOT THE REMAINDER.





SCHOOL-SCHOOL-SCHOOL-SCHOOL-
SCHOOL-SCHOOL-SCHOOL-SCHOOL-
SCHOOL-SCHOOL-SCHOOL-SCHOOL-
SCHOOL-SCHOOL-SCHOOL-SCHOOL-



THWUMP





ARE YOU LIKE. DOING SOMETHING
OVER THERE I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT?

WHAT?

YOU KEEP TWITCHING
AND FIDGETING

WHY?

ALL MY RECENT NEW SPELLS HAVE TO
DO WITH *SNEAKING AROUND* OR *SPYING*
I GET MORE MAGIC BY *USING* MAGIC.
AND I'M TRYING TO GET A SPELL THAT
DOESN'T MAKE ME FEEL LIKE A *SNEAK*

IT'S THAT EASY? I MEAN. I SORTA GET
THE WHOLE "USE MORE TO GET MORE"
THING. BUT DOESN'T IT TAKE A WHILE
TO GET NEW SPELLS?

NORMALLY, YES BUT I GOT A
RELATIVELY LATE START ON MAGIC. I
THINK I CAN GET NEW SPELLS MORE
QUICKLY WHILE PLAYING CATCH UP

OK, COOL. BUT IF THE
SPELLS YOU GET ARE BASED
ON YOU. DON'T YOU HAVE
TO HIDE LESS THINGS TO
GET NON-HIDING SPELLS?

DON'T
YOU?

NANASE?

NANASE!

I'M SORRY DID YOU SAY
SOMETHING? I I WAS JUST
MAKING A NEW FAIRY DOLL
LINKED WITH *SUSAN*, AND

HEH I PROBABLY SHOULD'VE
WAITED FOR A TIME WHEN
SHE WOULDN'T LIKELY BE
GETTING DRESSED

NEVER MIND

GRACE? I'M GOING TO HAVE
TO LEAVE FOR MY BUS SOON
SO UH, HAVE A NICE--

WAIT!
JUST A
SECOND!



SMOOCH



YOU GOTTA
SEE ME BEFORE
YOU GO SILLY!

M. MY
BAD



TEDDI GET YOUR BUTT OUT THE
DOOR! I DON'T HAVE TIME TO
DRIVE YOU IF YOU MISS THE
BUS TODAY!

GOTTA GO



MAN SHE'S GREAT IT'S
AMAZING THAT TODAY'S GOING
TO BE HER FIRST DAY EVER
ATTENDING SCHOOL



A SCHOOL FULL
OF GUYS WHO ARE WAY
BETTER THAN ME



REMEMBER IF ANYBODY ASKS IF YOU'VE GOT A BOYFRIEND JUST SAY YOU'RE IN A COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP DONT GET TOO SPECIFIC ABOUT TEDD

WHAT'S WRONG WITH TEDD?



NOTHING'S WRONG WITH TEDD. IT'S JUST THAT IT'S PROBABLY BEST THAT NEITHER OF US STAND OUT TOO MUCH AND YOU LIVING WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL WOULD BE A MAJOR GOSSIP MAGNET



WHAT ARE YOU GONNA SAY IF PEOPLE ASK YOU?

SAME THING



WELL, THAT OR "MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS JACKASS!"

WE NEED TO STOP BY THE GUIDANCE COUNSELORS OFFICE FOR OUR SCHEDULES AND LOCKER NUMBER, WHEREVER THAT IS OOH, MAPS!



WE GET COUNSELORS? LIKE, PERSONAL ADVISERS TO HELP US THROUGH OUR EDUCATION? THAT'S SO NICE!

UH YEAH SOMETHING LIKE THAT



YOUR SCHEDULE AND LOCKER ASSIGNMENT HAVE A NICE DAY GLENDA

MY NAME'S GRACE



AND I'M SURE I'LL REMEMBER THAT, ALONG WITH THE NAMES OF THE OTHER HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR BYE BYE NOW



WELL WELL WELL LOOKS
LIKE WE'VE GOT SOME NEW
STUDENTS



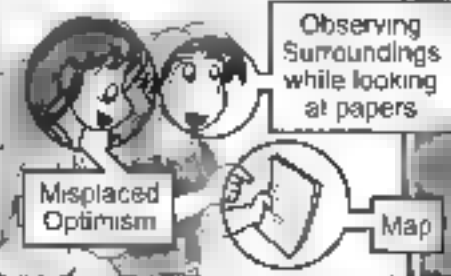
DIANE HOW THE HELL DO
YOU KNOW THEY'RE NEW?
COUPLE THOUSAND PEOPLE
ARE STUCK IN THIS SCHOOL

ELEMENTARY
MY DEAR LUCY



SQUEE!

BOTH ARE HOLDING SHEETS
OF PAPER. ONE OF WHICH
APPEARS TO BE MOSTLY
IMAGERY I BELIEVE THAT TO
BE A MAP OF THE SCHOOL.
WHICH IS SUPPORTED BY THE
BRUNETTE OBSERVING HER
SURROUNDINGS WHILE
REFERRING BACK TO IT



I SUSPECT THE OTHER PAPERS ARE THEIR
SCHEDULES IN ADDITION. OTHERS ARE
ALSO EYEING THEM WITH INTEREST
SUGGESTING I AM NOT THE ONLY ONE
WHO CONSIDERS THEM AN ANOMALY



BRILLIANT!

ONE QUESTION. NANCY DREW
WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

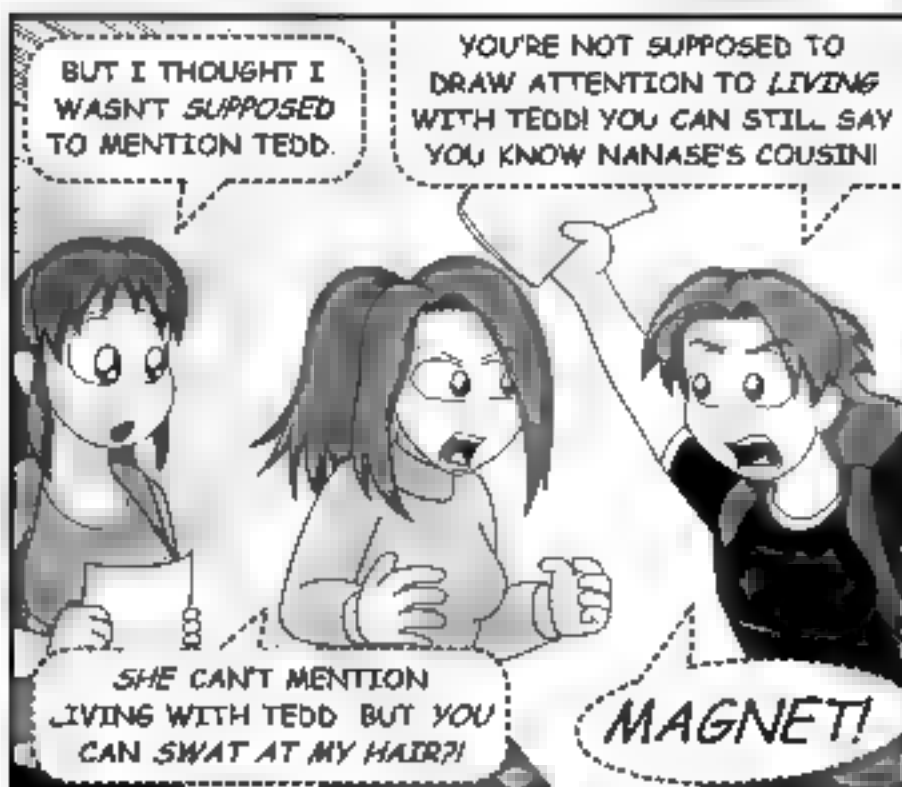


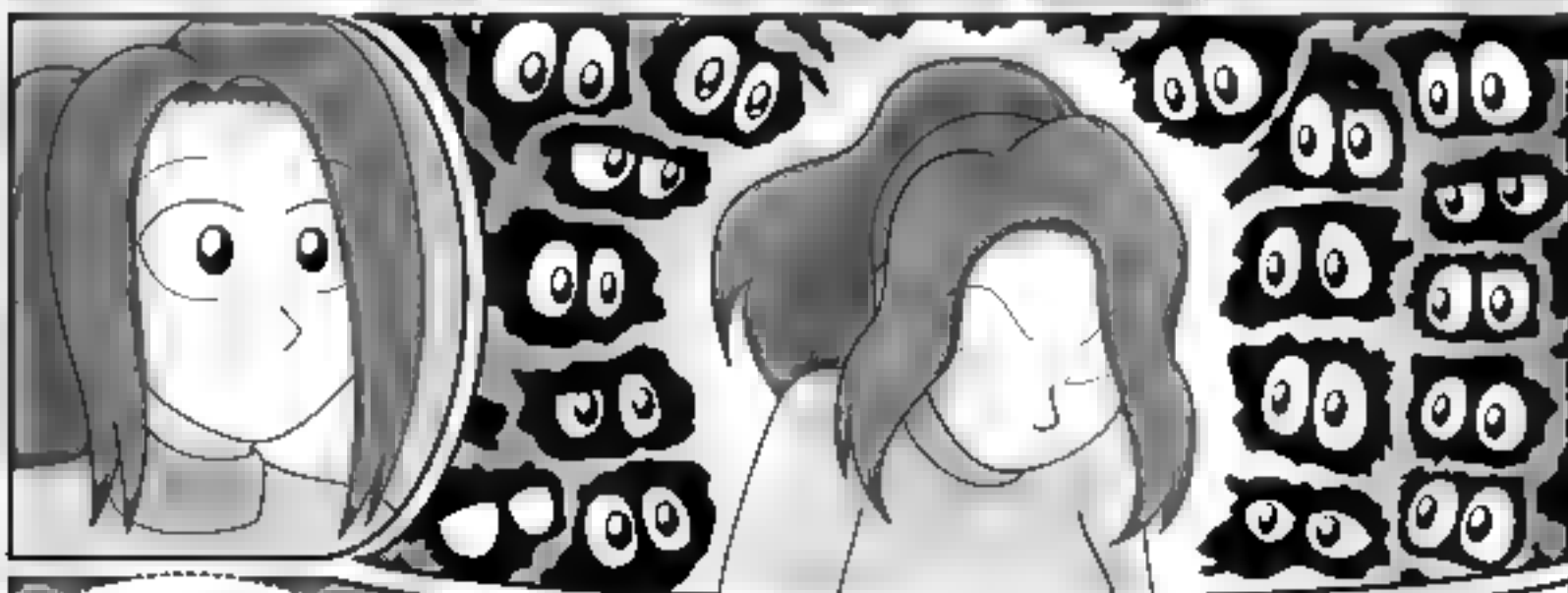
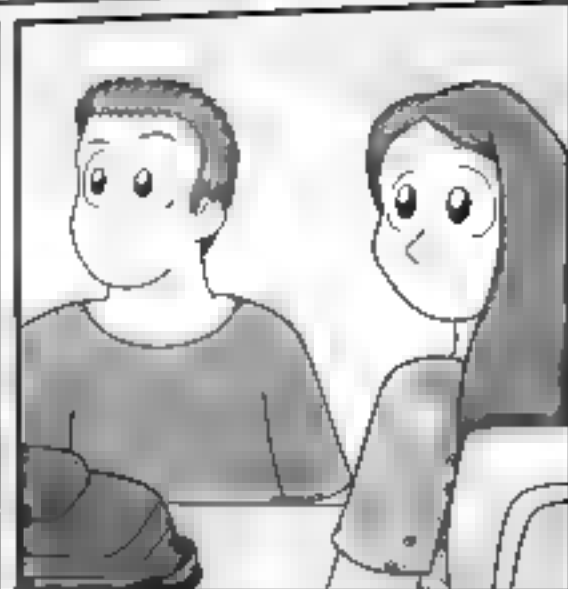
WAIT--WHAT IN.



THEY KNOW
NANASE?!







IT'S NOT SARCASM SHE HAS
A NEW SPELL THAT TELLS HER
HOW MANY AND HOW DIRECTLY,
PEOPLE ARE LOOKING AT HER

TWO OF
THEM HAVE LOST
INTEREST



NOW LOOK. AS FAR AS ANYONE ELSE
IS CONCERNED, HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED
NANASE, YOU WERE ANNOYED BECAUSE
ELLEN HAS A BAD HABIT OF SWATTING
AT LONG HAIR AND YOU'RE NOT USED
TO HER DOING IT IN PUBLIC THERE'S
NOTHING INTIMATE ABOUT IT, IT'S
JUST SOMETHING SHE DOES

BUT--



SERIOUSLY, LET IT GO
I'VE SEEN SUPPOSEDLY
STRAIGHT GIRLS ACT
MORE AFFECTIONATE
WITH EACH OTHER
THAN SAILORS FRESH
TO PORT WITH THEIR
GIRLFRIENDS



ELLEN, YOU WERE ANNOYED
BECAUSE YOU DON'T THINK IT'S
A BIG DEAL TO SWAT PEOPLE'S
HAIR AND YOU THINK NANASE
NEEDS TO CHILL OUT

NOT TOO
FAR OFF



GRACE YOU'RE NEW TO SCHOOL
AND TOTALLY CONFUSED

TOTALLY



AND YOU'D LIKE IT VERY MUCH IF
NANASE AND ELLEN STOPPED FIGHTING
SO WE CAN ALL SIT DOWN AND
COMPARE SCHEDULES BEFORE FIRST
PERIOD STARTS WOULDN'T YOU?

YES. I WOULD.



LET'S COMPARE SCHEDULES.



YAY!



MEANWHILE AT MOPERVILLE NORTH HIGH SCHOOL



SLAM!



SUSAN WOULD KILL ME FOR SAYING SO, BUT I KINDA LIKE HAVING GENDER-SPECIFIC UNIFORMS



YES, TEDD, WE ALL KNOW YOUR APPRECIATION FOR GIRLS IN UNIFORM.

ACTUALLY ELLIOT I WAS REFERRING TO THE FACT THAT IT'S OBVIOUS I'M A GUY NOW I'M GOING TO ENJOY IT WHILE I CAN BEFORE SUSAN SCARES THE PRINCIPAL INTO CHANGING THINGS.



HUH. I FIGURED THAT'D JUST BE A BONUS FOR YOU

HEY, I HAVE APPRECIATION FOR GIRLS IN UNIFORMS



GOOD UNIFORMS.

THOSE LONG SKIRTS SUCK, AND WHILE THEY MAY LOOK DECENT OTHERWISE, IT'S NOT EVEN *FIRST PERIOD* YET AND I'M *ALREADY* SICK OF EVERY GIRL WEARING THE SAME THING

I MEAN I LIKE UNIFORMS BUT WHAT'S THE POINT IF EVERYONE IN A GROUP IS WEARING THE SAME THING?!

UH.



BONJOUR, MES AMIS!

SARAH? WHAT'S WITH THE BERET?



IT MAKES THIS ATROCIOUS OUTFIT SLIGHTLY LESS ATROCIOUS

WEREN'T HATS AGAINST THE RULES EVEN BEFORE THE NEW DRESS CODE?

I'M HOPING THE *ABSOLUTE CUTENESS* OF THIS ENSEMBLE WILL OVERPOWER ANY ADMINISTRATIVE URGES TO UNDO IT



IF ALL IT TOOK WAS CUTENESS TO SWAY SCHOOL POLICY, I WOULD HAVE SMUGGLED IN GRACE

HOLY CRAP YOU'RE ACTUALLY GOING THROUGH WITH IT

SUSAN!



SEXY AWESOME

SUSAN, YOU
LOOK UM.

DETERMINED?

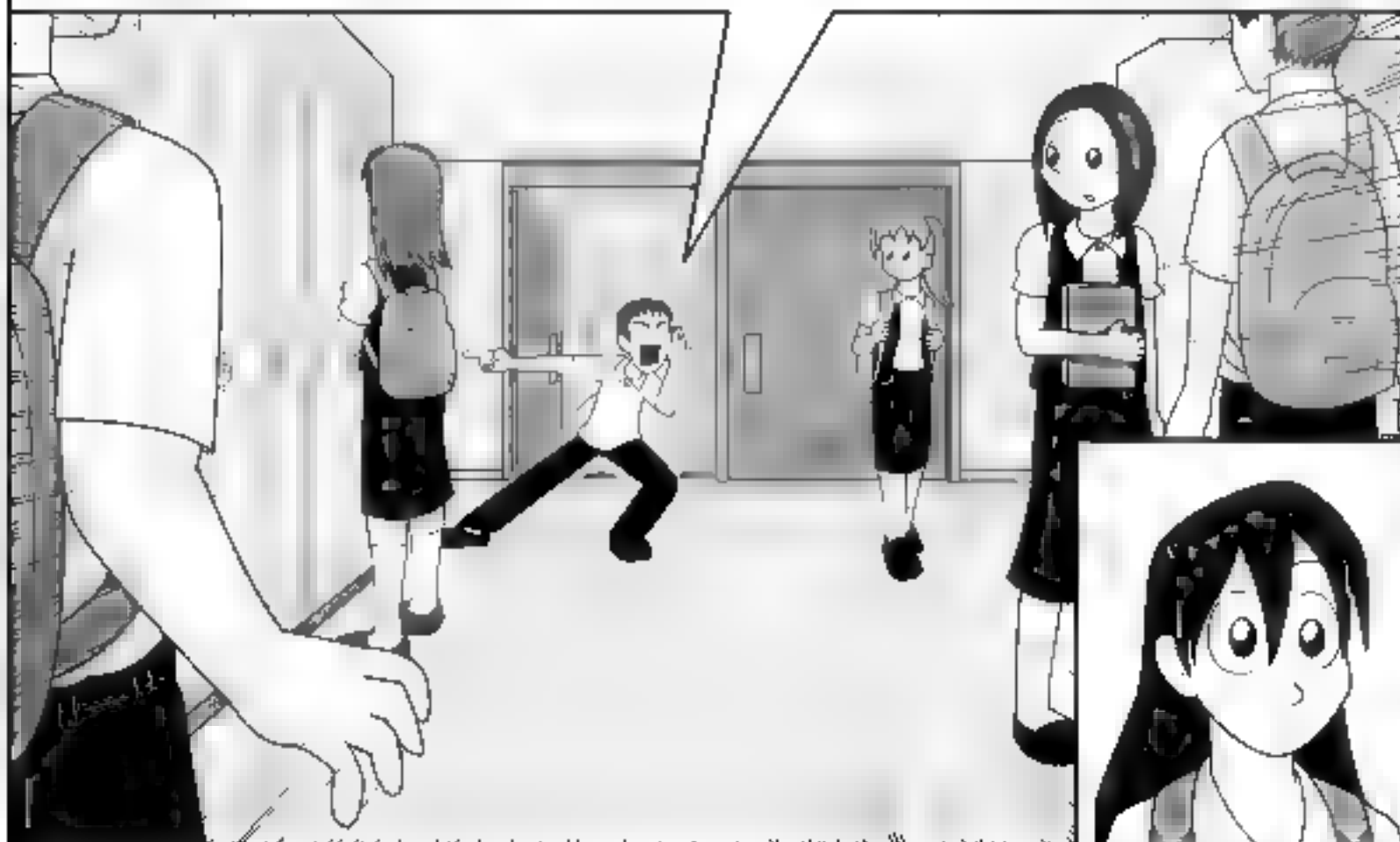
SINCE WAKING UP THIS MORNING, I'VE
HAD MY PRIVACY VIOLATED BY A FAIRY
BEEN ACCUSED OF BEING A LESBIAN IN
MANY COLORFUL WAYS

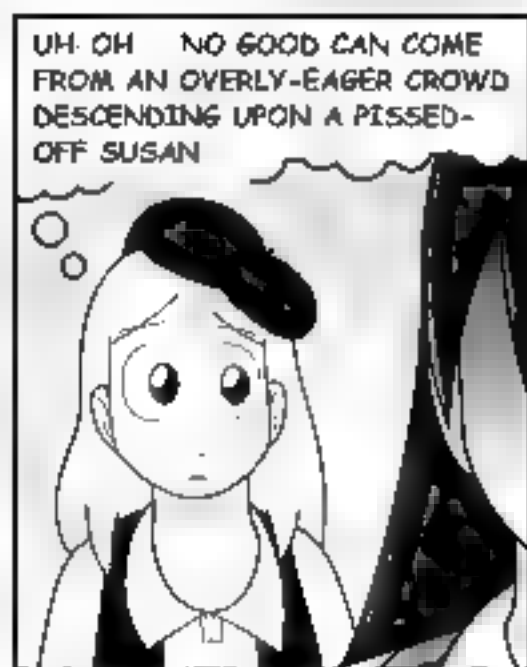
AND ANY SECOND NOW I'M GOING TO
HAVE TO STAND UP TO OUR DIM-WITTED
PRINCIPAL ABOUT THE NEW DRESS CODE

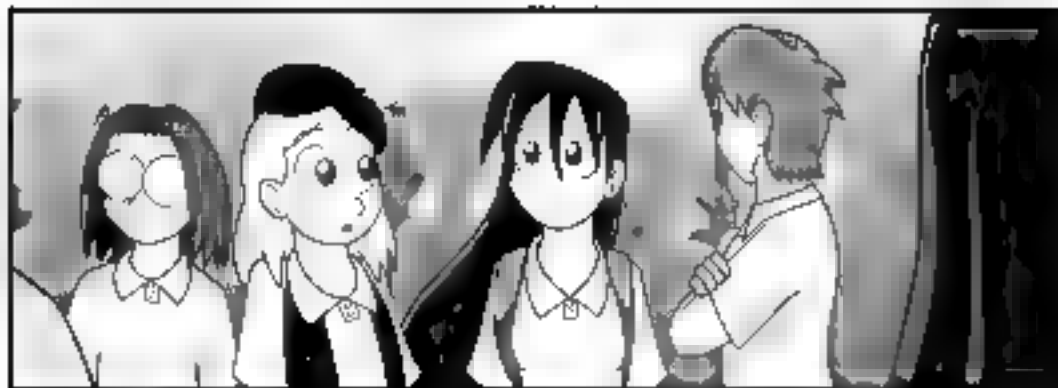
DID- DID YOU JUST SAY YOU'RE GOING TO STAND
UP TO THE PRINCIPAL ABOUT THE UNIFORMS?

NO I'M OPENLY DEFYING THE DRESS CODE
JUST FOR THE HELL OF IT OF COURSE I AM!

HEY, EVERYBODY! THAT ANGRY FEMINIST CHICK IS
GONNA DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE UNIFORMS!







ALRIGHT! IF WE WANT TO CHANGE SCHOOL POLICY IT'S ACTUALLY VERY SIMPLE!



PART OF IT IS SIMPLY REFUSING TO CONFORM TO IT AS I HAVE DONE AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO!



WE CAN SPREAD WORD ABOUT HOW THE SCHOOL'S UNIFORM POLICIES ARE SEXIST AND GET PARENTS AND OTHERS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY INVOLVED!



IF WE CAN GET ANY OF THE TEACHERS ON OUR SIDE, THAT WILL WORK GREATLY TO OUR ADVANTAGE!

GIVEN ADEQUATE PRESSURE FROM BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL, THE PRINCIPAL WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO MAKE THE VESTS OPTIONAL FOR BOTH SEXES AND ALLOW WOMEN TO WEAR PANTS!



UH YEAH, I HAVE A QUESTION?

YES?



WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!



EXCUSE ME?



WHO CARES ABOUT VESTS AND SKIRTS?!

YEAH! WE DON'T WANT TO *CHANGE* THE UNIFORMS!

WE WANT TO GET RID OF THEM ENTIRELY!

YEAH, AFC



SCREW THE UNIFORMS!

GET RID OF THEM!

YEAH!



THE SCHOOL HAS ALREADY INVESTED A LOT OF MONEY BY SUPPLYING UNIFORMS. THERE THERE'S JUST NO WAY THE PRINCIPAL WOULD BE WILLING TO GET RID OF THEM ALTOGETHER THIS EARLY ON

HE COULD LOSE ENOUGH FACE TO VALIDATE BEING FIRED IF HE DID THAT THE BEST WE CAN HOPE FOR--



WHAT A COP OUT!

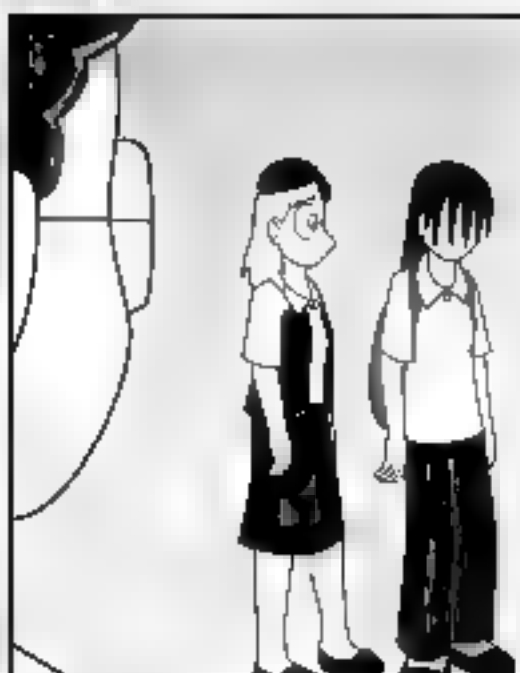
I TOLD YOU SHE WAS ALL TALK

ALL THAT LESBO CARES ABOUT IS GETTING WHAT *SHE* WANTS!

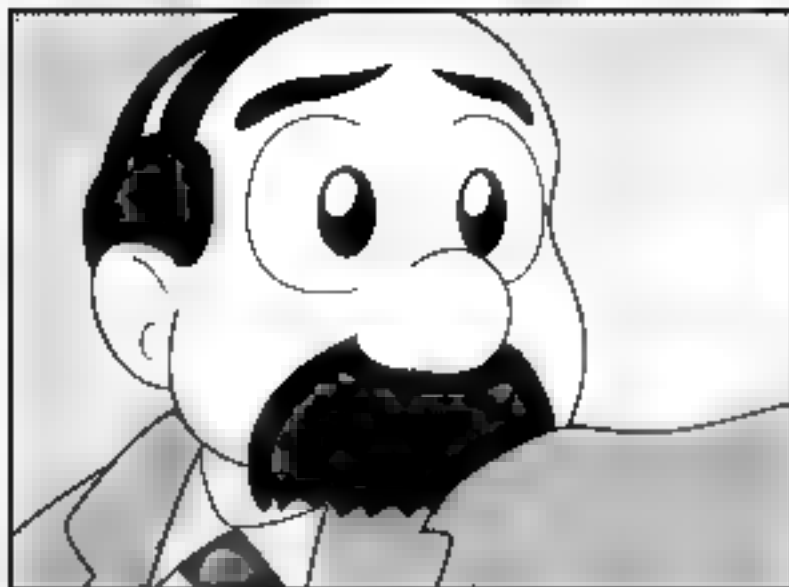
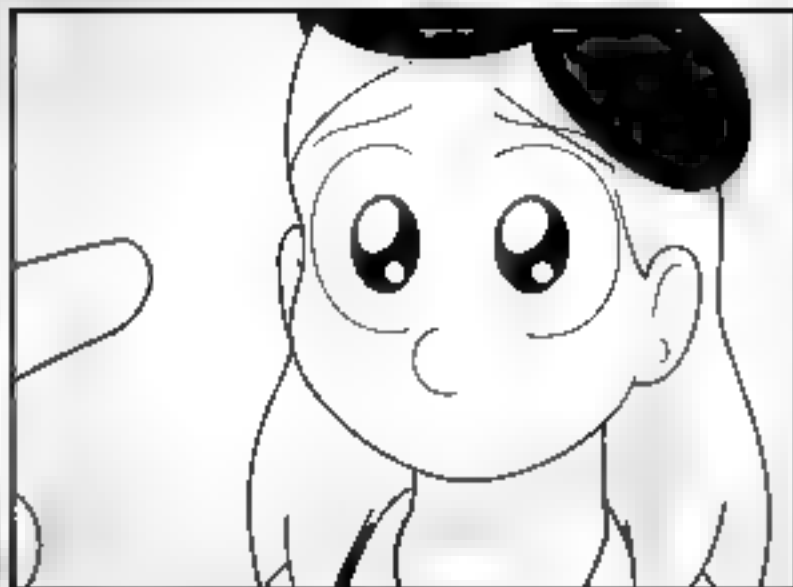
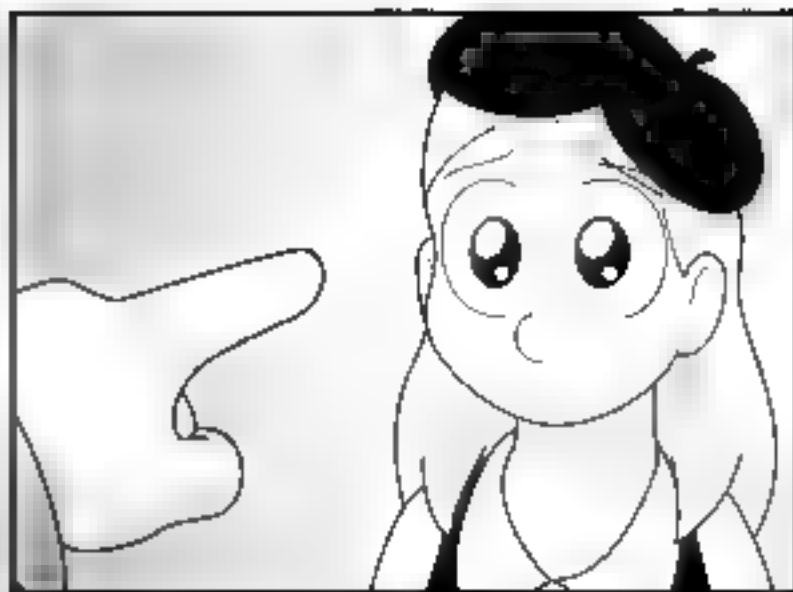
BITCH!

STUPID DYKE, GETTING OUR HOPES UP LIKE THAT..

AND TO HELL WITH THE REST OF US. RIGHT?







ARGH! THEY'RE ALL SUCH JACKASSES!

YOU AGREE WITH ME, DON'T YOU?

NOT REALLY

UM, SURE HAVE WE MET?

I'M CATALINA, PROUD MEMBER OF SUSAN'S FEMINIST GROUP! I ALREADY KNOW WHO YOU MALES ARE TEDD AND ELLIOT RIGHT?

UM, YEAH.

PLEASED TO MEET'CHAI ANY MEN SUSAN'S WILLING TO PUT UP WITH HAVE GOTTA BE HALFWAY DECENT!

THANKS?

PERSONAL SPACE ?

DON'T LET THOSE JACKASSES GET TO YOU SUSAN! WE'LL FIGURE OUT HOW TO WORK AROUND THEM AT THE AFTER SCHOOL MEETING. WON'T WE?

OF COURSE WE WILL!

RIGHT SUSAN?

YES OF COURSE WE WILL

KICK ASS! I'LL BE THERE FIRST THING AFTER SCHOOL!

I MIGHT EVEN LEAVE MY LAST CLASS EARLY!

CATALINA NO! YOU'RE IN DETENTION TOO MUCH AS IT IS!

MOPERVILLE SOUTH. STILL BEFORE FIRST PERIOD

IT LOOKS LIKE WE ONLY HAVE LUNCH AND GYM TOGETHER. YOU AND ELLEN HAVE THE SAME SCHEDULE?

YEP!

WELL, LUNCH AND GYM ARE THE BEST CLASSES TO HAVE TOGETHER FOR SOCIALIZING. ANYWAY

C'MON, LET ME SWAT YOUR HAIR! PEOPLE WILL JUST THINK YOU HAVE A QUIRKY FRIEND!

BUT IT'S WEIRD! WHY DO YOU WANT TO SWAT IT, ANYWAY? DID TEDD MIX CAT DNA INTO THE V5 FORM?

MAYBE I DUNNO IT'S FUN. AND WELL

WELL? WELL WHAT?

IT'S HOW I MADE YOU SMILE FOR THE FIRST TIME

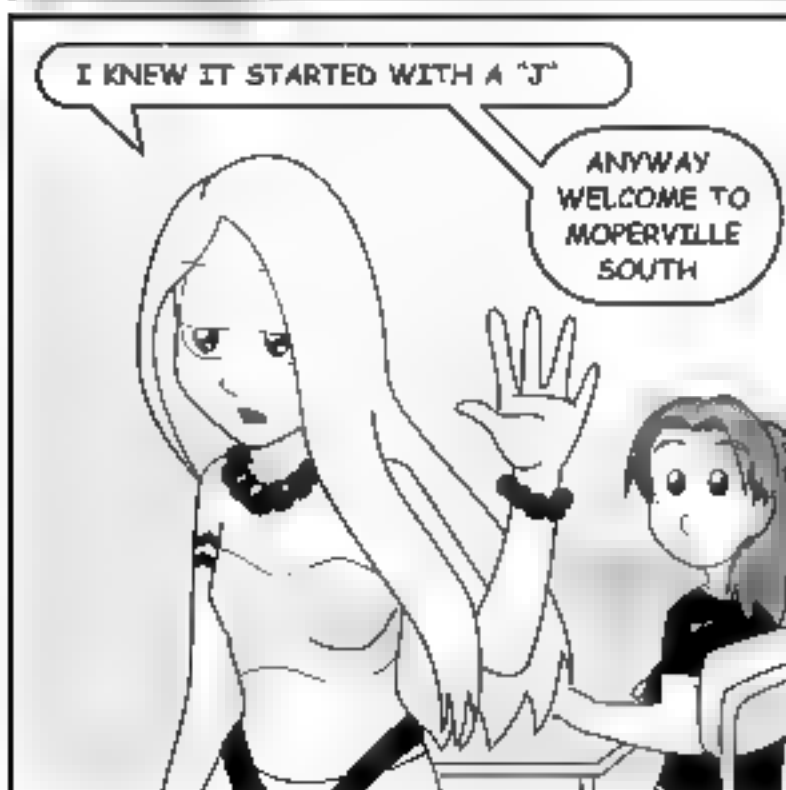
OK. YOU CAN. BUT HOLD OFF FOR NOW!

HUH? BUT--

HELLO

WHAT? THAT SOUNDS LIKE

SUSAN?!





WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

WHAT AM I--ARE YOU JOKING? DIANE LOOKS AND SOUNDS EXACTLY LIKE SUSAN!

JUST LIKE ELLIOT AND ELLEN WHEN ELLIOT IS GIRLIFIED!

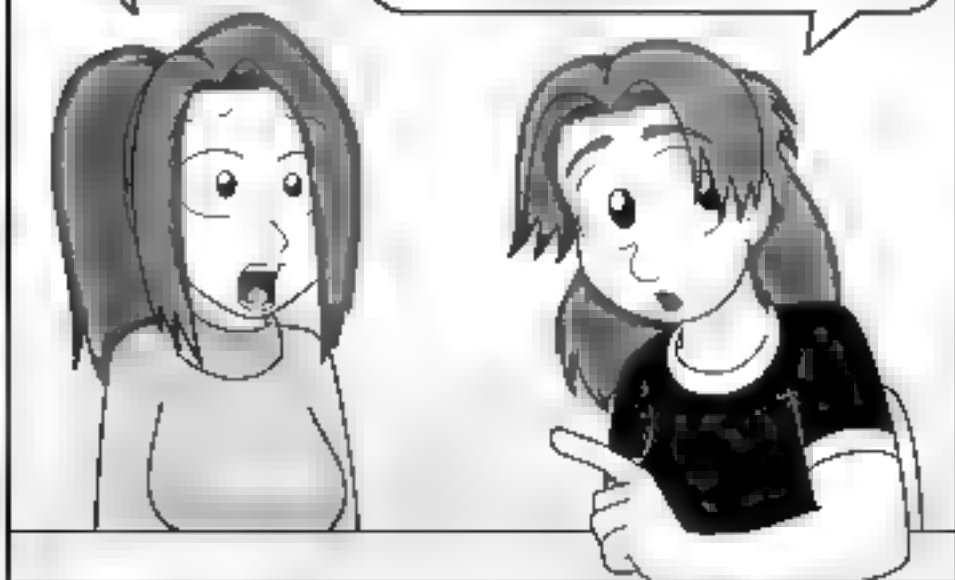


WHAT? DIANE DOESN'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE--



OH. MY GOD HOW DID I NEVER NOTICE THAT?!

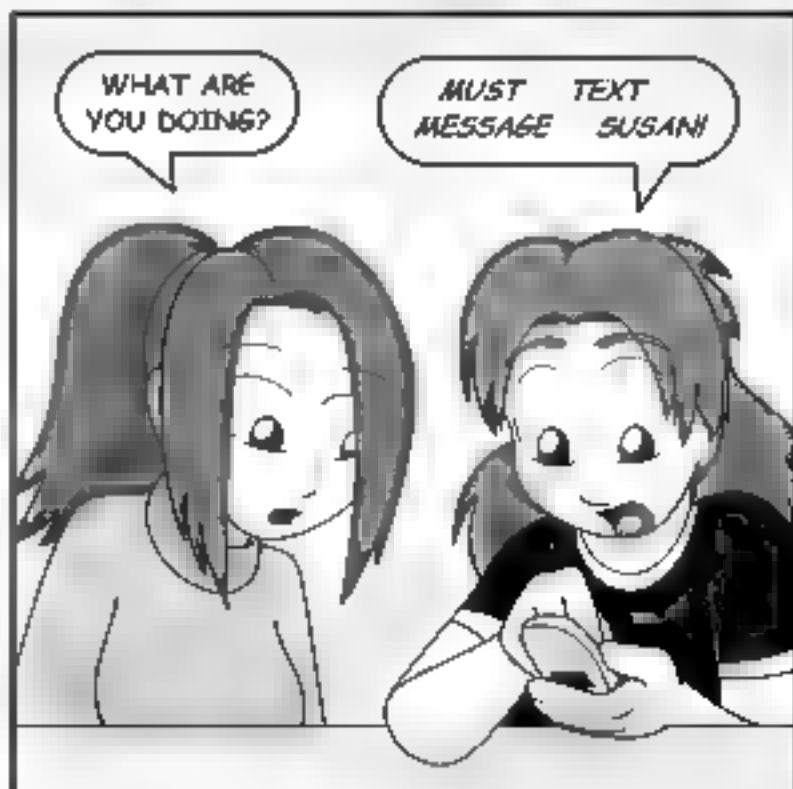
MAYBE THE IDEA OF CONNECTING SOMEONE DRESSED LIKE THAT WITH SUSAN WAS TOO MUCH FOR YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS TO ACCEPT?



COME ON. THEY'RE BOTH THIN AND BLONDE BUT IDENTICAL?

I DON'T SEE IT

TRUST ME THEY ARE I'VE GOTTEN GOOD AT ANALYZING PHYSICAL STRUCTURES



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

MUST TEXT MESSAGE SUSAN!



WHAT'D SHE SAY?

SHE LIVES IN
A MANSION.

LIKE
BATMAN?!

MAYBE IT WAS THE
WAY YOU TYPED IT?

APPARENTLY SHE'S MORE CONCERNED
WITH THE *COST* OF TEXTING THAN
THE POSSIBILITY OF LOST RELATIVES

HEY, I MIGHT SUCK AT THUMB-TYPING BUT THE "YOU
HAVE A DOPPLEGANGER" MESSAGE WAS STILL THERE

YOU KNOW
ABOUT BATMAN?

A LITTLE TEDD SAID
IF I WAS *SUPERMAN*,
HE'D BE BATMAN.

AND YOU'RE DATING I THINK
I'VE READ THAT FAN FICTION.

SHE PROBABLY THOUGHT YOU WERE JOKING

MAYBE I CAN'T TELL HER
MOOD IN HER FIRST REPLY

DAMMIT SHE CAN THUMB-TYPE EVERY WORD
BUT SHE CAN'T BUST OUT THE EMOTICONS?!

IF SUSAN'S BATMAN DOES THAT MAKE TEDD ROBIN?

NO, TEDD'S STILL
BATMAN. I THINK SUSAN
WOULD BE ZATANNA.

IS THAT THE
GIRL WITH THE
HAT? BECAUSE I
THINK TEDD WANTS
THAT OUTFIT

FOR YOU OR HIM?

I'M NOT SURE

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TWO--

BRRIINNNING!

AAH! WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
ARE WE UNDER ATTACK?!

THAT WOULD BE THE "YOU HAVE SIX
MINUTES TO GET YOUR ASS TO CLASS" BELL

MOPERVILLE NORTH, EN ROUTE
TO THE 1ST CLASS OF THE DAY



I HAVE TO
SAY, TEDD, I AM
IMPRESSED.

BY
WHAT?

"BY YOU. THAT CATALINA GIRL,
WHO SEEMS JUST A TAIL
SHORT FROM BEING A CAT-GIRL,
WAS ALL OVER YOU EARLIER,
BUT YOU DIDN'T EVEN BLUSH."



*SOME LIBERTIES MAY HAVE BEEN
TAKEN WITH THIS PANEL

YEAH, I THINK
SOMETHING
MIGHT BE
WRONG
WITH ME.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?



WELL, I LIKE IT WHEN GIRLS WEAR LOOSE
CLOTHING, SO I THOUGHT IT WAS SEXY
AWESOME WHEN I SAW SUSAN EARLIER...



...BUT EVEN THOUGH I WAS LOOKING
RIGHT AT SUSAN, I WAS THINKING ABOUT
GRACE WEARING A GUY'S UNIFORM!

"THEN WHEN THAT
CAT GIRL WAS ON
ME, ALL SHE DID
WAS ANNOY ME."

"I WAS ACTUALLY
UPSET THAT A GIRL
WAS PRESSING UP
AGAINST ME!"



I MEAN, WHAT
THE HELL'S WRONG
WITH ME?!

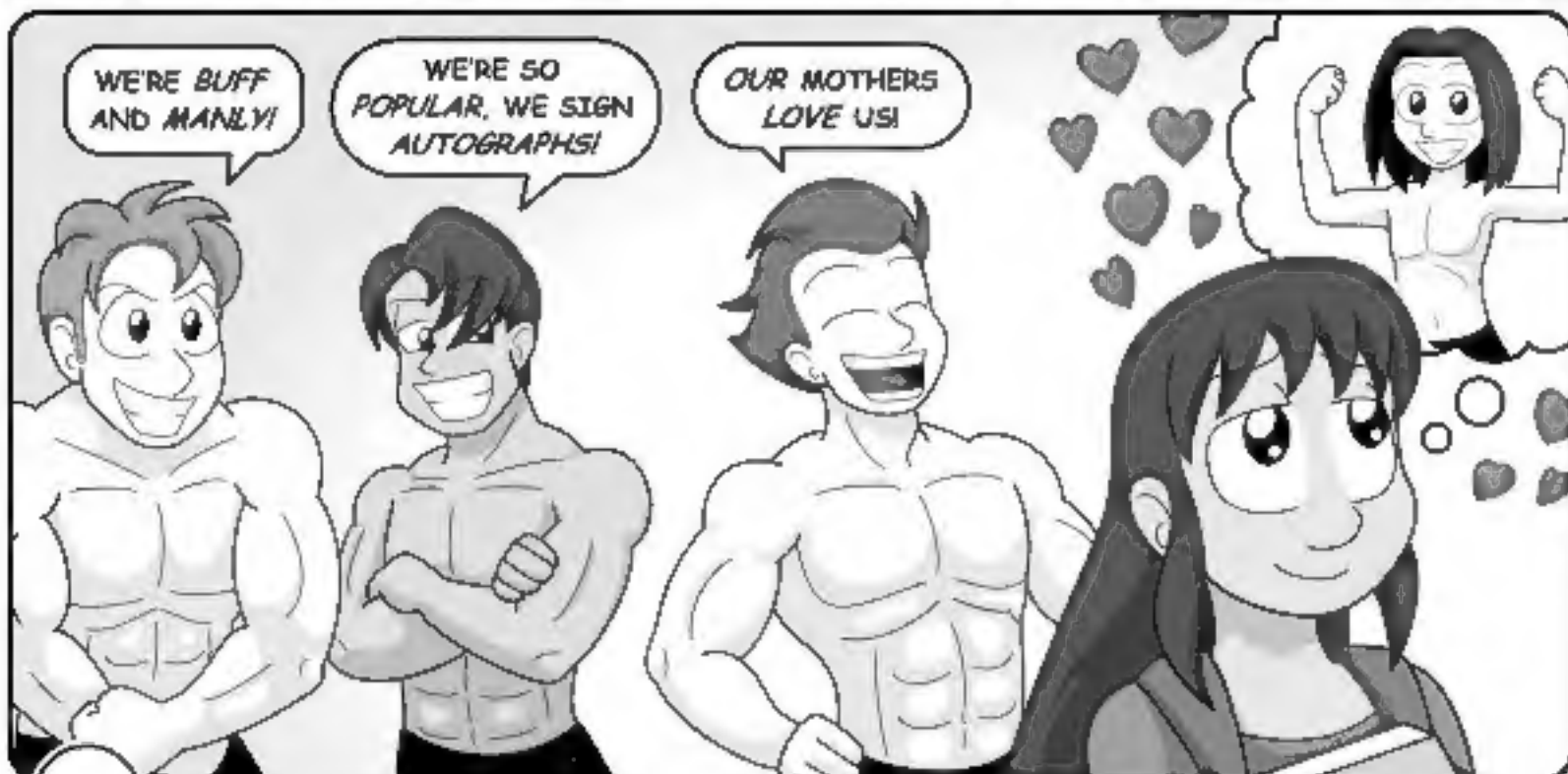
THAT, MY FRIEND,
IS INCREDIBLY
OBVIOUS.

IT IS?



YOU'RE
IN LOVE, YOU
IDIOT.





MOPERVILLE SOUTH, 1ST PERIOD



UH, HI, MR. ALEPHNULL? I'M ELLEN, AND THIS IS GRACE.

AH, YES, THE MYSTERIOUS NEW STUDENTS.



WHAT? NO, NO, WE'RE NOT MYSTERIOUS!

OF COURSE YOU ARE. TWO NEW STUDENTS JOINING US ON THE SAME DAY WITH THE SAME SCHEDULE AND WHO APPARENTLY HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER BEFOREHAND?



IT REEKS OF MYSTERY.



MYSTERIES, HOWEVER, ARE WHAT MATH IS FOR! IF WE TAKE TODAY'S DATE, FACTOR IN YOUR RESPECTIVE DATES OF BIRTH...



...APPLY THE VISIBLE PERCENTAGE OF THE CURRENT MOON PHASE, WORK IN YOUR GENDERS (XX) AS VARIABLES...



...AND A LITTLE OF THIS...

...A LITTLE OF THAT...

...CARRY THE ONE...



HUH. THAT'S ODD. THE END RESULT APPEARS TO BE A DUPLICATE SQUIRREL OF SOME SORT.

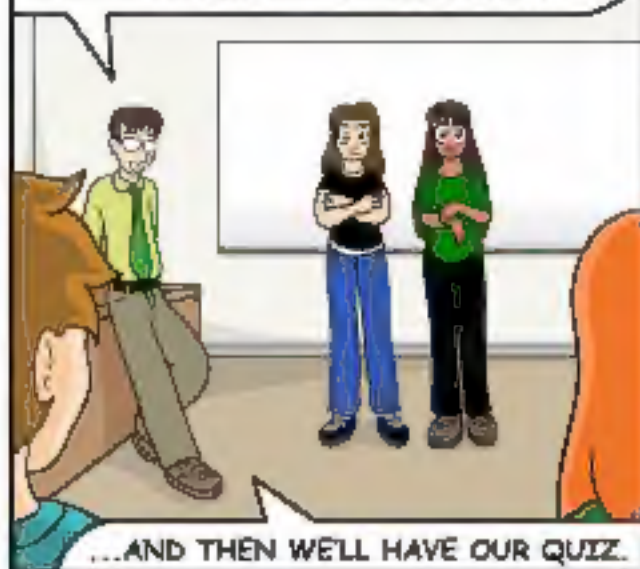


WHAT?! REALLY?!

NAH, I'M JUST MESSING WITH YOU. THAT WAS PURE GIBBERISH! COME, LET US GET YOU TWO INTRODUCED.



CLASS, WE HAVE TWO NEW STUDENTS. PLEASE PAY ATTENTION AS THEY BRIEFLY INTRODUCE THEMSELVES...



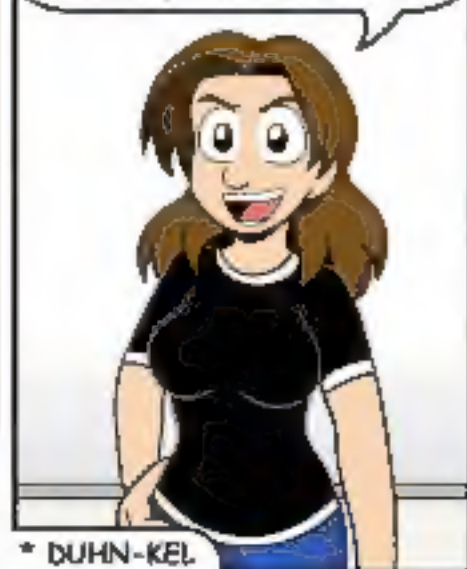
...AND THEN WE'LL HAVE OUR QUIZ.

QUIZ?! BUT--



RELAX. IT'S A PRACTICE QUIZ. WE HAVE ONE EVERY MONDAY TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE'S KEEPING UP.

OH. OK. COOL. UM, I'M ELLEN DUNKEL*. I'M OUT-GOING, BUT SECRETIVE.



* DUHN-KEL

...ANYTHING ELSE?

NO, THAT PRETTY MUCH COVERS IT.

OK THEN... GRACE?



...M-MY NAME IS GRACE SCIURIDAE*, AND I...



* SKWUR-UH-DEY

I... UM...

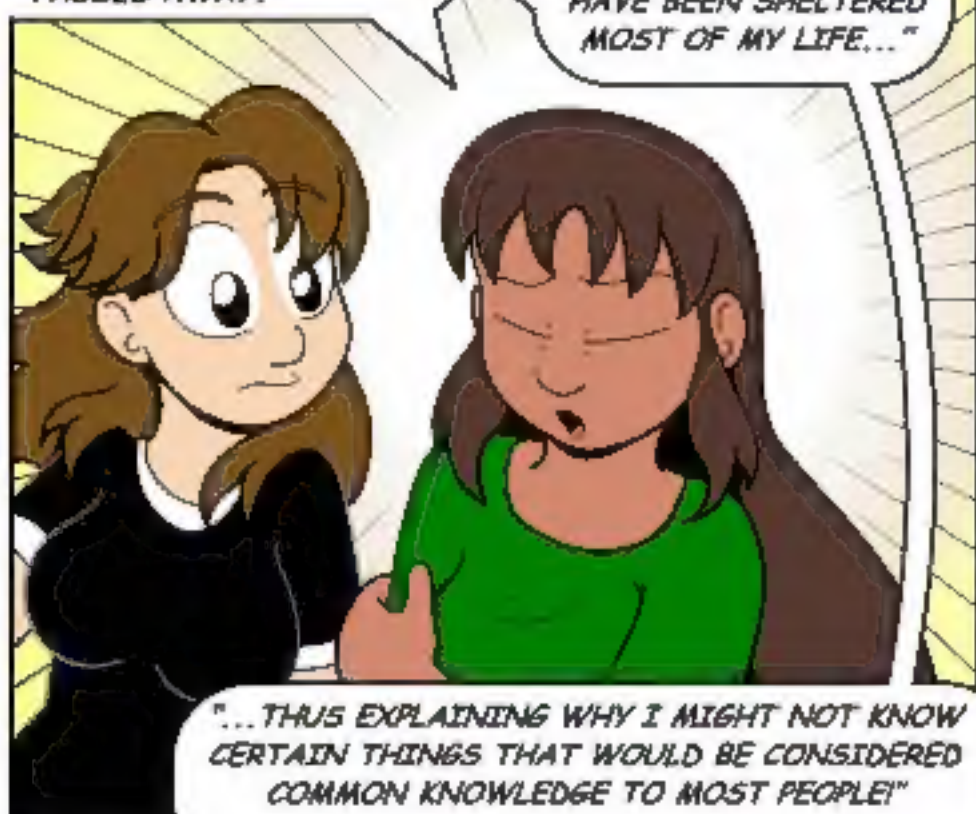
?!



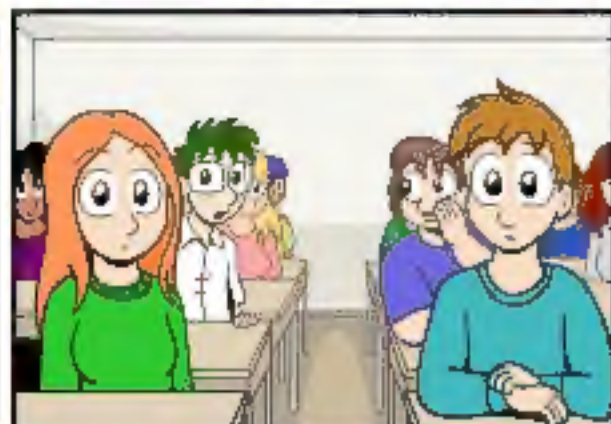
SNATCH!

"I WAS RAISED AND HOME SCHOOLED BY AN ELDERLY WOMAN WHO RECENTLY PASSED AWAY."

"I NOW LIVE WITH OTHER PEOPLE, BUT I HAVE BEEN SHELTERED MOST OF MY LIFE..."



"...THUS EXPLAINING WHY I MIGHT NOT KNOW CERTAIN THINGS THAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED COMMON KNOWLEDGE TO MOST PEOPLE!"



PHEW!

